

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

DUNLAP

Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned

Serial No.: New Application

Examiner: Not yet assigned

Filed: November 13, 2001

Attorney Dkt. No.: 108800-00005

For: INTERCONNECTION OF USERS VIA A COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK, FOR
COMPETITIVE GAMING

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

November 13, 2001

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fees and initial examination of the application,
please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 5, 8, 37, 40 and 41 as follows. A copy of the marked up
original claims is attached to this response showing the changes as set forth in
amended 37 CFR 1.121.

5. (Amended) A method according to claim 3, wherein the user's access to the
game of skill via the key data is controlled by reference to one or more of the types of
characteristics data.

8. (Amended) A method according to claim 6 wherein the time restriction includes a predetermined initial time period, the key data not being valid for attempts to access the game once the player has accessed the game for the initial time period.

37. (Amended) A method according to claim 33, wherein the memory also includes quantitative value data indicative of a value of the card.

40. (Amended) A method according to claim 38, wherein the quantitative value data is stored on the server, and not amended in the memory of the physical token.

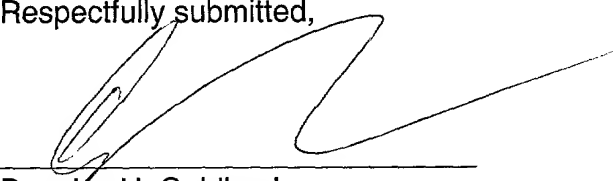
41. (Amended) A method according to claim 37, wherein the access to playing the game on the server is limited on a time basis.

REMARKS

Claims 1-56 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 5, 8, 37, 40 and 41 are amended to correct the multiple dependencies thereof and to place this application into better condition for examination. No new matter has been added.

In the event that there are any fees due with respect to the filing of this paper, please charge Deposit Account No. 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: Marked-up Copy of Amended Claims

MARKED-UP COPY OF AMENDED CLAIMS
ATTY. DOCKET NO. 108800-00005

5. (Amended) A method according to claim 3 [or 4], wherein the user's access to the game of skill via the key data is controlled by reference to one or more of the types of characteristics data.

8. (Amended) A method according to claim 6 [or 7] wherein the time restriction includes a predetermined initial time period, the key data not being valid for attempts to access the game once the player has accessed the game for the initial time period.

37. (Amended) A method according to [any one of claims 33 to 36] claim 33, wherein the memory also includes quantitative value data indicative of a value of the card.

40. (Amended) A method according to claim 38 [or 39], wherein the quantitative value data is stored on the server, and not amended in the memory of the physical token.

41. (Amended) A method according to [any one of claim 37 to 40] claim 37, wherein the access to playing the game on the server is limited on a time basis.

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